

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2009 ARKANSAS BOYS STATE

May 26, 2009

The 69th annual session of Arkansas Boys State will begin on Sunday May 31, 2009 on the campus of the University of Central Arkansas in Conway. Approximately 600 delegates are pre-registered for this year's session. Registration begins at 1:00pm at HPER Center on the U. C. A. campus.

Established in 1940, Arkansas American Legion Boys State gives young Arkansans a better understanding of how elections and state government work in their state. They learn by doing in a mythical state. From actually campaigning in a party primary to making sure that they get legislation passed that benefits their cities, the young men who participate leave Boys State with a better idea of how democracy works in a state and local government.

Arkansas Boys State is sponsored by the American Legion Department of Arkansas. Boys State is for high school boys which have completed their junior year. Boys State delegates represent the finest students in Arkansas and are leaders in their communities. Arkansas Boys State is a unique summertime educational program that does not emphasize classroom lectures and textbook learning. Instead, it focuses on participation and personal experience in a model state, complete with governing bodies and elected public officials. It is designed to mirror the structure and operation of its respective city, county and state governments.

The participants are selected to attend Boys State by their local high schools and American Legion posts based on leadership and character. They form a mythical state where they are divided up into groups of 18 cities in 9 counties.

At the conclusion of the session, two delegates are chosen to represent Arkansas at Boys Nation in Washington, D. C., which will be held in the latter part of July.

For further information, you may go to the American Legion Department of Arkansas web site at www.arlegion.org and click on the Programs box and then Boys State, or contact the American Legion Department of Arkansas at 501-375-1104.

Speaker scheduling is being revised and will be available at registration on Sunday May 31st.

Contact: Roger Swain, Media Relations, on the UCA campus beginning Saturday May 30, 2009